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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT FROM MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO ON TODAY'S VOTE BY THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

"I commend the FCC for voting in favor of net neutrality today, and heeding the calls of many to enact bold new rules that safeguard a free and open Internet for all.

"Today's momentous decision will re-classify broadband as a telecommunications service and put in effect rules that will ensure fair play online—regulations against blocking, paid prioritization, and other discriminatory practices limiting our Internet access.

"The outcome of today's historic vote clearly demonstrates the Commission understands that the Internet has become an invaluable resource. This critical service is turning into a basic utility—and it is high time for it to be treated as such.

"Access to fast, affordable broadband should not be restricted, with some consumers relegated to slower lanes than others. In today's Information Age, service providers should not be gatekeeping our Internet access simply because they are able to pay more for it.

"I applaud FCC Chairman Wheeler for his leadership to protect consumers and innovation. New York City also stands by his efforts to empower cities across this nation to create municipal broadband options tailored to individual cities' needs—which is especially important when major service providers lack the incentive or capacity to meet them. The Commission's decision today will help spur local innovation for years to come.

"New York City thanks the FCC for choosing to defend the net."

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